JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Christopher Markos, Esquire, Williams Cuker Berezofsky 1515 Market Street, Suite 1300, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 557-0099 II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) II. U.S. Government Plaintiff (U.S. Government Defendant III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Party) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of This State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of This State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of This State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of This State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of This State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Another State III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Citizen of Anot	DEFENDANTS CITY OF PHILADELPHIA;		
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VII. REQUESTED IN	Another District Litigation (specify) not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): AAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:		
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE Paul S. Diamond DOCKET NUMBER 14-cv-7195	DOCKET NUMBER 14-cv-7195		
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNY OF RECORD 05/27/2015 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	RECORD		

Case 2:15-cv-02964-PD Document 1 Filed 05/27/15 Page 2 of 14

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: 3715 Wallace Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 Address of Defendant: 1515 Arch Street, 14th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19102 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 3717 Wallace Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? Yes No (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes□ No Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: 14-cv-7195 Judge Paul S. Diamond Date Terminated: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously NoX terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Nox CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: A. Federal Ouestion Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1.

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. D Airplane Personal Injury 2. D FELA 3. - Assault, Defamation 3.

Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. □ Marine Personal Injury 4.

Antitrust 5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. D Patent 6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Products Liability 7. M Civil Rights 8. D Products Liability - Asbestos 8.

Habeas Corpus 9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases 9. □ All other Diversity Cases 10. □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. □ All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) I, Christopher Markos counsel of record do hereby certify: Leave Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; □ Relief other than monetary damages is sought. 308997 DATE: 05/27/2015 Attorney I.D.# Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

Attorney-at-Law

308997

Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

DATE: <u>05/27/2015</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Addı	ress
(215) 557-0099	(215) 557-0673	cmarkos@wc	blegal.com
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for	
05/27/2015	Christopher Markos	Plaintiff	
(f) Standard Management	- Cases that do not fall i	nto any one of the other tracks.	(x)
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)			
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.			1 ()
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.			Rule 53.2. ()
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.			
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	s brought under 28 U.S.C	C. § 2241 through § 2255.	()
SELECT ONE OF THE I	FOLLOWING CASE M	IANAGEMENT TRACKS:	
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CITY OF PHILADELPH	HIA, et al.	NO.	
v.	:		
SYLVESTER WESTCO	TT :	CIVIL A	CTION

(Civ. 660) 10/02

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SYLVESTER WESTCOTT,

:

Plaintiff, :

Docket No.:

v. :

CIVIL ACTION

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA :

Law Department :

1515 Arch Street, 14th Floor : HONORABLE

Philadelphia, PA 19102

and :

OFFICER JEFFERY WALKER, Badge:

No. Unknown :

c/o CITY OF PHILADELPHIA :

LAW DEPARTMENT :

1515 Arch Street : Philadelphia, PA 19102 :

•

Defendants. :

Complaint (Civil Action)

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. In December 2012, local media revealed that several members of the Philadelphia Police Department's Narcotics Field Unit had, for a significant length of time, used improper and unconstitutional means to investigate and prosecute narcotics violations, including acquiring warrants by misrepresentation, illegally entering private property, illegally searching and detaining persons and property, and subjecting individuals to unlawful arrest, detention, and prosecution. Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams announced he would no longer accept testimony from Officers Michael Spicer, Thomas

Liciardello, Brian Reynolds, Perry Betts, Brian Speiser, and Lt. Robert Otto in drug cases, believing each had lost their credibility, and would no longer accept narcotics charges when any of these officers is a necessary witness. Thereafter, Officer Jeffery Walker plead guilty to charges of corruption, including conspiring to commit robbery, and later admitted to fabricating testimony and other evidence. Since, numerous cases these officers have been involved with have been dismissed or overturned. In fact, there is a longstanding history of egregious illegal and unconstitutional conduct on the part of Philadelphia Police Officers engaged in narcotics enforcement. Plaintiff brings this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for money damages and other relief. Plaintiff seeks redress for false arrest and malicious prosecution, committed in violation of his rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(1), (3), and (4). This Court has jurisdiction to adjudicate plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- Venue is properly laid in this judicial district, as all defendants are found therein, and all acts and events giving rise to the complaint occurred therein.

III. PARTIES

 Plaintiff Sylvester Westcott is a citizen of the United States with a residence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and at all relevant times to this case was in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

- 5. Defendant City of Philadelphia is a municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and owns, operates, manages, directs, and controls the Philadelphia Police Department ("PPD"), and, by and through its officials with final authority to do so, promulgates, implements and maintains policies, practices and procedures for the Department and its police officers.
- 6. Defendant Walker was, at all relevant times, a police officer for the Philadelphia Police Department and assigned to the Narcotics Field Unit ("NFU"). He is sued in his individual capacities.
- 7. At all relevant times, all defendants acted under color of state law.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 8. On or about December 4, 2012, plaintiff was walking to the Market-Frankford subway to visit his girlfriend.
- On or about December 4, 2012, plaintiff Sylvester Westcott was arrested without probable cause by defendant Officer Jeffery Walker.
- 10. At the time of his arrest, money and other property was taken from plaintiff by Walker.
- At no time on or about December 4, 2012, was plaintiff in possession of any drugs, contraband items or materials, or engaged in any criminal conduct.
- 12. At no time on or about December 4, 2012 did Walker observe plaintiff engaging in criminal conduct or obtain evidence that plaintiff was engaging in criminal conduct.
- 13. At no time on or about December 4, 2012 was there reasonable suspicion to stop plaintiff or probable cause to arrest him.
- 14. Walker's justification for arresting plaintiff was based entirely on fabricated or false representations, including: falsely claiming to have found drugs in plaintiff's possession,

- falsely claiming to have found pre-marked money, and falsely claiming to have observed an illegal drug transaction using a confidential informant.
- 15. Defendant issued or caused to be issued a criminal complaint against plaintiff on the basis of defendant's fabrications and false representations.
- 16. On the basis of the false representations and related criminal complaint, Plaintiff was charged with various drug crimes.
- 17. At no time was there probable cause to charge plaintiff with any crime.
- 18. Plaintiff retained the services of a private attorney to defend the criminal charges brought by Walker.
- 19. Walker provided false testimony at plaintiff's preliminary hearing.
- 20. As a result of Walker's false testimony, plaintiff's charges were "held for court."
- 21. Plaintiff was detained at Curram Frumhold Correctional Facility from the time of his arrest until his release following the dismissal his case.
- 22. At the time of his arrest, prosecution, and incarceration, the Philadelphia District

 Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Police Department were aware of a long-standing pattern of misconduct perpetrated by defendants and other members of the NFU.
- 23. Said pattern included the fabrication of probable cause for searches and seizures, false arrests, misleading or deceptive affidavits and other statements of probable cause, theft of money and other property from suspects and arrestees, and the provision of unreliable of false evidence and testimony in the course of numerous investigations and prosecutions.
- 24. On May 22, 2013, defendant Jeffery Walker was arrested by the federal government and charged with robbery, *inter alia*.

- 25. The federal criminal complaint filed against Defendant Walker revealed that Walker regularly made up facts, planted and stole drugs, stole money, and lied about doing so. Walker admitted these allegations are true.
- 26. On or about May 31, 2013, plaintiff's criminal case was nolle prossed.
- 27. Plaintiff was released from custody in June 2013.
- 28. As a result of his false arrest, prosecution, and related confinement, plaintiff suffered significant damages and harms, including but not limited to:
 - a. loss of liberty;
 - b. emotional distress;
 - c. deprivation of property;
 - d. interference with his daily activities;
 - e. wage loss and loss of earning capacity;
 - f. deprivation and/or delay of educational opportunities some or all of which are ongoing and/or permanent.
- 29. Plaintiff's damages and harms were caused by the culpable conduct of defendants, alleged in greater detailed hereinbelow.
- 30. The conduct of the defendant Walker was carried out in wanton and outrageous disregard for the Constitution and plaintiff's rights thereunder, and was motivated solely by their self-interest, completely unrelated to the administration of justice, thereby warranting an award of exemplary damages against him.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

Plaintiff v. Walker 42 U.S.C. § 1983

- 31. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the preceding as though each were set forth herein in their entirety.
- 32. Plaintiff suffered the harms and damages alleged hereinabove as a direct and proximate result of defendants' violation of his rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment to be free from false arrest and unreasonable search and seizure, malicious prosecution, wrongful conviction and incarceration, and deprivation of liberty and property without due process.

Count II Plaintiff v. City of Philadelphia 42 U.S.C. §1983

- 33. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the preceding as though each were set forth herein in their entirety
- 34. There is longstanding and well-known history of Philadelphia Police Officers engaging in egregious, illegal, and unconstitutional conduct in the course of investigating and prosecuting narcotics offenses, including:
 - a. the "One Squad Scandal" of the early 1980's when Philadelphia narcotics officers were convicted of selling drugs stolen from dealers;
 - federal convictions of the "Five Squad" for, among other things, racketeering in the 1908s;
 - c. The 39th District scandal that came to light in 1995 when members of the 39th Police District were federally prosecuted and convicted of violating the rights of, and stealing from, Philadelphians;

- d. federal narcotics convictions that were overturned in 1998 when internal affairs found that a Philadelphia Police Department narcotics officer was potentially corrupt; and
- e. the events described in the Philadelphia Daily News series titled "Tainted Justice."
- 35. The individual defendants' violations of plaintiff's constitutional rights and his related damages were caused, encouraged, tolerated and/or ratified through longstanding policies, practices, customs, and usages maintained by the City of Philadelphia and its Police Department.
- 36. These polices, practices, customs, and usages, all maintained with deliberate indifference, included but were not limited to:
 - a. failure to supervise, monitor, or properly train officers adequately in the proper exercise of police powers;
 - failure to supervise, monitor, and properly train police officers adequately regarding false arrest, malicious prosecution, and citizens' constitutional and civil rights;
 - failure to supervise, monitor, and properly train police officers regarding their duty to report and disclose the misconduct and illegal actions of other officers;
 - failure to monitor police officers whose conduct it knew violated constitutional and legal requirements; and
 - e. failure to supervise, investigate, or discipline appropriately defendants and other officers it knew violated citizens' rights on a repeated basis, and/or repeatedly

- provided false or fabricated evidence in the course of investigations, arrests, and prosecutions.
- 37. With respect to defendants and other NFU officers, the City and its high-ranking officials were aware of numerous facts and circumstances from which it did know, or could have and should have inferred, that defendants were engaged in a longstanding pattern of illegal and unconstitutional conduct consistent with the conduct by which they victimized plaintiff.
- 38. Such facts and circumstances included but were not limited to:
 - a. numerous citizen complaints against the officers;
 - b. numerous civil lawsuits against the officers and discovery obtained therein;
 - numerous complaints by other officers, including complaints forwarded to the
 Department's Internal Affairs Division;
 - d. numerous successful motions to suppress evidence purportedly obtained by the officers in the course of their investigation.
- 39. Despite these facts and circumstances, and the known conduct of defendants, the City and its officials remained deliberately indifferent to them and the risks they engendered for the violation of citizens' rights, and failed to take any meaningful actions to address them.
- 40. Further, the City of Philadelphia is deliberately indifferent to the need to train, supervise, and discipline police officers. The Internal Affairs Division (IAD) of the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) fails to provide an internal disciplinary mechanism that imposes meaningful disciplinary and remedial actions in the following respects:
 - a. There are excessive and chronic delays in resolving disciplinary complaints;

- There is a lack of consistent, rational, and meaningful disciplinary and remedial actions;
- There is a failure to effectively discipline substantial numbers of officers who
 were found to have engaged in misconduct;
- d. The PPD's internal investigatory process has fallen below accepted practices and is arbitrary and inconsistent;
- The PPD's discipline, as practiced, is incident based rather than progressive.
 Thus, repeat violators are not penalized in proportion to the number of violations;
- f. The conduct of IAD officers demonstrates that PPD internal affairs personnel are inadequately trained and supervised in the proper conduct of such investigations;
- g. A global analysis of IAD's investigatory procedures indicates a pattern of administrative conduct where the benefit of the doubt is given to the officer rather than the complainant;
- There are serious deficiencies in the quality of IAD investigations and the validity of the IAD's findings and conclusions;
- The PPD lacks an effective early warning system to identify, track, and monitor "problem" officers;
- j. Despite the fact that the defendant officers and others assigned to the NFU had amassed an exceptionally large number of serious misconduct complaints, the officers stayed well below the radar of any early warning system;
- Despite numerous prior complaints against the defendant officers, the PPD took
 no meaningful disciplinary or remedial actions;

- Despite numerous prior complaints against the defendant officers, the PPD took
 no meaningful steps to more closely monitor, retrain, and supervise the officers;
- m. IAD frequently fails to interview available eyewitnesses to incidents involving citizen complaints of misconduct. The interviews that are conducted by IAD are below standards of acceptable police practice and fail to address key issues in the cases.
- 41. As a result, defendants operated in a "culture" that facilitated and encouraged their unconstitutional misconduct, a culture that was so firmly established as to compromise a "policy" of the City of Philadelphia, and, as aforesaid, resulted in harm to plaintiff.

VI. JURY DEMAND

42. Plaintiff demands a jury determination of all issues so triable.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays the Court for judgment in his favor, against all defendants, individually, jointly and severally, and asks for the following relief:

- a) compensatory and general damages;
- b) punitive damages against defendant Walker;
- c) attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988;
- d) such interest and other costs as are allowed by law;
- e) such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

GERALD J. WILLIAMS, ESQUIRE

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Dated: May 27, 2015